

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on Monday, January 13, 2003 in the Director's Office of the Main Library. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- Andre Mayer
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods

also present:

- Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries
- Bertha Chandler, Assistant Director
- Marilyn Gagalis, Administrative Assistant

Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Susan Flannery presented an update on the Main Library building project. She reported that The Mid Cambridge Conservation Commission had given its preliminary o.k. to the plan as currently proposed and that neighborhood response to these plans has also been generally positive. More on this next month.

James Roosevelt reported that he would continue his pursuit to schedule Senator Hillary Clinton as the keynote speaker for the Galbraith Lecture Series. Senator Clinton has a new scheduler whom he shall contact and solicit a final response. He will report back next month with a final determination. At this point, if Senator Clinton declines the invitation, the Board discussed the possibility of inviting Al Gore. Professor Galbraith will be consulted.

Ms. Chandler provided board members with a personnel update. Two staff members have completed their studies at Simmons and received their MLS degrees and we have several more employees actively pursuing their MLS degrees through the union's tuition assistance program. In addition, the recently appointed Assistant Director for Public Services will begin her employment with the library on February 18, 2003. Her name is Madeline Amorosi and she is coming to Cambridge from the Boston Public Library.

Ms. Flannery informed the Board of a hiring freeze issued by the City Manager reflecting the state of the City's economy. Currently, the library has all full time positions filled so the initial impact of this freeze is not crippling.

In a discussion concerning the Fiscal 04 budget mandates, Ms. Flannery announced that all FY03 library services projections had increased since the inception of the budget period. Library usage is up in every category. It was a unanimous decision by the board to contact the local media and suggest an op ed article, boasting this usage and the growing popularity of the library. This may be a trend due to the state of the economy so it was suggested that statistics from Minuteman be requested to determine if this is a regional trend.

The "Pet Peeve" problem to solve this month was why one cannot renew books from other libraries via the web. This has been found to be a software problem and, with new software expected in the network, this problem may or may not be alleviated in the very near future.

In a follow up to the goals set at the last trustees' planning session, Ms. Flannery requested that a list of events be set with a tentative time table for the community outreach events being sponsored by the trustees. These events will highlight a presentation by Susan Flannery including a brief history of the library, why we have the need for an expanded library, where we are in the process and a question and answer session. Target dates were determined to be from the end of January through March. Board members listed potential events they would like to sponsor. All will contact Ms. Flannery to confirm availability and report at the next meeting when and where they will sponsor an event.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library.

Andre Mayer, Secretary

Action Items:

- James Roosevelt will contact
Senator Clinton's scheduler to set a final date for Galbraith Lecture.
- Nancy Woods to contact the following about sponsoring a meeting/tea/event
Ruth Butler
Cambridge Youth Soccer
Cambridge Historical Society
- Janet Axelrod will
organize a tea at her home
contact the Temple on Tremont Street about sponsoring an event.
- Andre Mayer will
plan a tea
contact the New England Archivist group about an event
- Pat Payne will speak with
Leslie President about hosting a tea for the faculty and staff of Leslie.
- Jim Roosevelt to research the possibility of an event with the following;
Mothers Club
Cambridge Club.
- Susan Flannery will solicit an event to be held at the annual meeting of the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club.
- Bill Barry will be asked to research the possibility of an event to be held at St. Peter's